


Weekly Reader®

SENIOR EDITION

1 OF 2 SECTIONS

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A gray wolf drinks from a stream in Canada. Biologists are trying to bring gray wolves back to Yellowstone National Park. Ranchers in the area are fighting to keep the West wolf-free.

Is the West Ready For the Wolf?

See page 4.





Chechen fighters in Grozny take a break from the fighting. Chechen leaders vow to continue their fight until Russia grants Chechnya its freedom.

—AP/Wide World Photos

Conflict in Russia:

When Will the Fighting End?

GROZNY, RUSSIA—A 12-year-old boy sells candy bars on the streets of this war-ravaged city. He wishes the fighting would stop, and he worries about his friends who carry guns to fight in the war.

"I feel sorry for them," says the boy, Vyacheslav Kerimbayev. "They are too young, and they will be killed. And their mothers will cry."

That boy and tens of thousands of other residents of Chechnya (CHECH-nee-uh) are caught in a violent struggle against Russia, the nation that has controlled Chechnya since the mid-1800s.

Chechnya is a mountainous Russian *republic* about the size

of Connecticut. *Republics* are similar to U.S. states. Chechnya has struggled for independence for more than 100 years. It finally declared its freedom from Russia in 1991, when several other republics did the same.

Russia refused to grant Chechnya its independence, however. It wanted to maintain control of the oil-rich republic. Last December, 40,000 Russian troops were sent to Chechnya to prevent the republic from breaking away from Russian rule.

Since then, fighting has been fierce, particularly in the capital city of Grozny (GROZ-nee). Residents there haven't had enough food, water, or electricity for months. Tens of thousands of

Chechens (CHECH-enz) have died in the war or have fled into the mountains.

Thousands of Russian troops have also died. Many soldiers say they're tired of fighting. "No one wants to be here," says one.

Chechen troops say they will fight until Russia no longer rules their homeland. "We won't stop until we have our independence," says one Chechen.

U.S. President Bill Clinton wants both sides to stop fighting. "Stop spilling blood," says Clinton, "and start making peace."



What, if anything, could U.S. officials do to help stop the fighting in Chechnya?



—Bob Italiano

Will Highway Harm Pyramids?

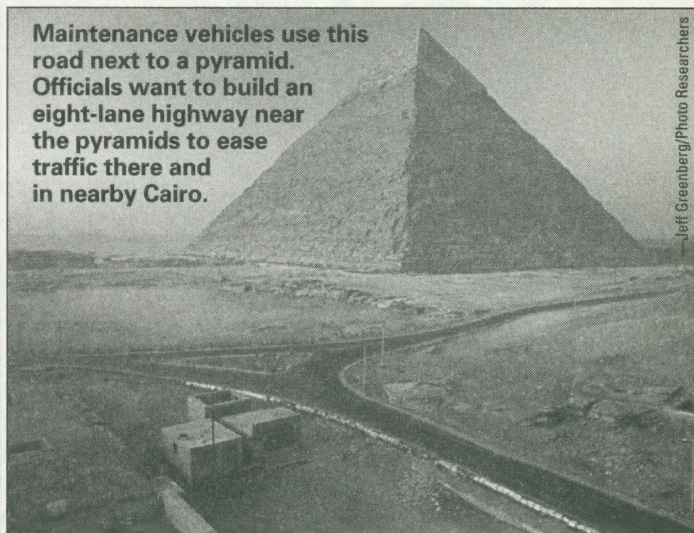
If you plan on visiting the pyramids in Egypt soon, don't plan on driving up close to them. Egyptian officials recently put on hold plans to build an eight-lane highway to the pyramids.

The officials originally planned for the highway to come within 2.5 miles of the pyramids. But archaeologists and United Nations (U.N.) officials objected. They said exhaust and vibrations from cars traveling on the highway would damage the already delicate and decaying pyramids.

The pyramids show signs of severe *erosion* from air pollution and dust storms. *Erosion* is the gradual wearing away of objects exposed to weather or water. Experts fear that the highway would only cause further erosion of the pyramids.

"By building the roads," says Egyptian historian Zahi Hawwas, "you will kill the pyramids." After U.N. protests, the Egyptian government decided to delay construction and to shift the highway's path about 5 miles from the ancient structures.

Maintenance vehicles use this road next to a pyramid. Officials want to build an eight-lane highway near the pyramids to ease traffic there and in nearby Cairo.



—Jeff Greenberg/Photo Researchers

Some officials criticize the delay, saying the highway is essential for life in today's Egypt. "Preserving the antiquities [monuments of ancient times] is of prime importance," says Ali Hassan, an official at the Egyptian Department of Antiquities. "But so is developing the roads."

Transportation News

Bikes Beat Out Cars



—Paula Bronstein/Black Star

A man parks his bike in a crowded bike lot in Shanghai, China. Bikes are by far the most common form of transportation in that country.

Bicycles have become *the* form of transportation the world over, according to figures released recently. In 1993, three times as many bicycles as cars were manufactured.

In Denmark, one in three people who ride a train to work ride their bikes to the train station. Three million people in the United States bike to work.

Bikes are particularly popular in China. Chinese people bought 30.5 million bikes last year. That's enough bikes to give one to every resident of California and South Dakota and still have lots of bikes left over.

Cyclists say bikes help cut down on pollution. Plus, says California cyclist Jamie Griffis, "you see so much more on a bike than you do in a car."

Is the West Ready For the Wolf?

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyoming—At this time of year, wolves should be preparing their dens for spring and the birth of their pups. But wolves haven't prepared dens around here for many years. Once found throughout the continental United States, the wolf was hunted to near extinction earlier this century.

Soon, however, Yellowstone may again be full of wolf dens—and wolf pups. In January, biologists brought more than a dozen wolves from Canada to Yellowstone and central Idaho.

Biologists say people were wrong to kill off wolves. They say returning the wolf to Yellowstone will help strengthen western ecosystems. But many ranchers are fighting the reintroduction of wolves. They say wolves are fierce predators that should never be allowed back in the West.

Wolves Once Plentiful

Wolves are meat eaters, or *carnivores*, and feed mostly on large animals such as elk and deer. Among the most skilled predators, the wolf once dominated U.S. forests.

The wolf's domination didn't last forever. Settlers saw wolves as a threat to their livestock and killed the animals by the thousands. By 1930, wolves had almost vanished from the Lower 48 states.

This winter, biologists started to bring the wolf back to the West. They tranquilized 15 wolves from Canada, transported them to Yellowstone and central Idaho, and released them. More wolves are scheduled to be released in the area over the next few years.

Welcome Back, Wolves

Many environmentalists, including Mollie Beattie of the



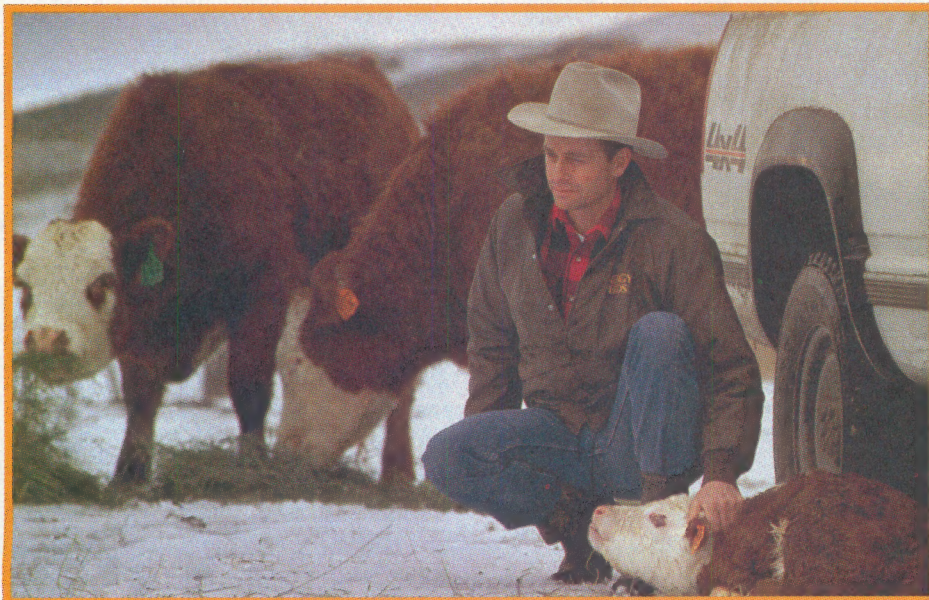
—AP/Wide World Photos

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, praise the wolf's return. Says Beattie, "Now we'll never have to tell our kids there used to be an animal called 'the wolf.'"

Beattie and others say the wolf is an essential link in the park's food chain. Few animals besides wolves kill large animals. Without wolves to keep herd size down, moose and deer herds have swelled in number. As a result, says Beattie, many of those animals can't find enough food.

Experts say returning wolves to the Yellowstone area could give a boost to the local economy as well. Supporters say the return of the wolf will attract more tourists to the park. More tourists mean better business for shops, hotels, and restaurants in the area.

While environmentalists see the wolf's return in a positive light, ranchers in the area see things differently.



—Troy Maban/The Idaho Statesman

Rancher Brad Little of Notus, Idaho, is concerned that wolves might attack his cattle. An adult wolf eats 12 to 15 large animals each year.



↑ A Canadian veterinarian injects a wolf prior to its transfer to Yellowstone Park. Some relocated wolves are placed in enclosed pens for several months. Researchers hope the wolves get used to their new surroundings while in the pens and don't head home to Canada once released.

← In Canada, a biologist checks a wolf that was shot with a tranquilizer dart from the air. This wolf and others were released in the United States before the January breeding season began. If the transported wolves mate, pups could be born later this spring.



Ranchers Say No Wolves

Ranchers say the wolves were killed off for a good reason: they are fierce predators capable of wiping out entire flocks of sheep. Experts estimate that once wolf packs are reestablished in the west, roving wolves could kill as many as 250 sheep and cattle each year.

Ranchers like Karen Henry of Wyoming say they aren't prepared to watch their herds be slaughtered by wolves. "Every time they kill one of my calves," says Henry, "that's \$500 out of my pocket."

Ranchers also say towns near Yellowstone will lose money once wolves are reestablished in the area. Hunters now flock to the towns because of the large populations of moose, deer, and elk in the area. The hunters spend millions of dollars a year at local businesses. Once wolves start to cull those herds, some people say, hunters might take

their money to other prime hunting grounds.

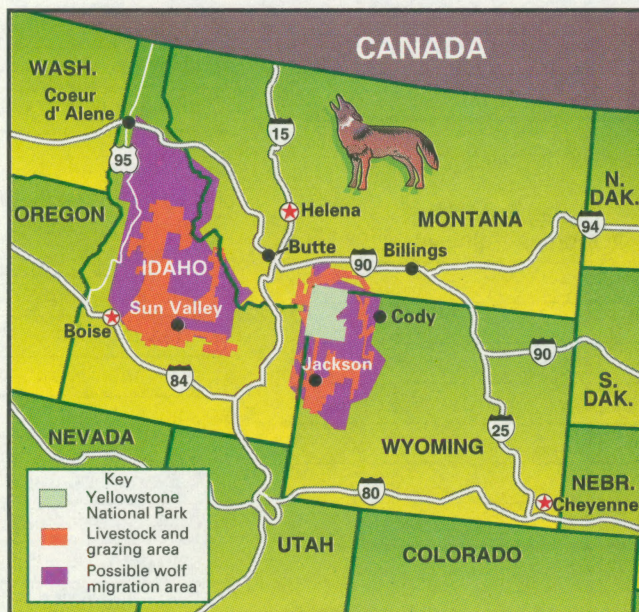
Many groups understand the pressures that the reintroduction might place on local residents and are trying to ease the burden. For instance, one environmental group recently set up a fund to pay ranchers for livestock killed by wolves.

U.S. officials are also trying to help. They lifted some regulations that protected wolves. For instance, ranchers will now be able to shoot a wolf if they can prove it has killed livestock.

Some people, like biologist Ed Bangs, are confident ranchers and wolves can coexist in Yellowstone. "With proper management," says Bangs, "we can have both."



What do *you* think? Should wolves be reintroduced into Yellowstone? Defend your position.



The map shows areas where wolves are being brought back and where biologists expect the animals to travel.

Source : U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USA Today

DRUGS, ALCOHOL, and TOBACCO

Please answer the following questions. **This is not a test.** How you answer will help people work on problems caused by the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.* Thank you for your help.

1. Circle one.

girl

boy

Which of the following do you think can be dangerous to your health? (Check *one box* for each.)

can be dangerous
yes no

2. smoking cigarettes		
3. chewing tobacco		
4. drinking beer		
5. drinking wine coolers		
6. drinking wine or liquor (gin, vodka, whiskey, etc.)		
7. smoking marijuana (grass or pot)		
8. smoking crack cocaine		
9. sniffing cocaine (coke)		
10. sniffing glue		
11. using heroin		
12. taking uppers or downers (prescription pills without a doctor's order)		

Where have you learned **the most** about the **dangers** of using drugs, of drinking alcohol, or of smoking?

(Check *one box only* in each column.)

using drugs drinking alcohol smoking

13. at home			
14. in school			
15. from other kids			
16. from TV			
17. from movies			
18. from newspapers or magazines			
19. nowhere			

Where have you heard or seen **the most** that might make using drugs, or drinking alcohol, or smoking seem like fun?

(Check *one box only* in each column.)

using drugs drinking alcohol smoking

20. from adults			
21. from kids in school			
22. from kids outside of school			
23. from TV			
24. from movies			
25. from newspapers or magazines			
26. nowhere			

What is the **main reason** you think **kids your age** might start to do the following?

(Check *one box only* for each action.)

feel older have fun feel good fit in with others impress some-one some other reason

27. smoke cigarettes						
28. chew tobacco						
29. drink beer						
30. drink wine coolers						
31. drink wine or liquor						
32. smoke marijuana						
33. smoke crack cocaine						
34. sniff cocaine						
35. sniff glue						
36. use heroin						
37. take uppers or downers						

How much do you think **kids your age** pressure one another to try the following?

(Check *one box only* for each action.)

not at all some a lot

38. smoking cigarettes			
39. chewing tobacco			
40. drinking beer			
41. drinking wine coolers			
42. drinking wine or liquor			
43. smoking marijuana			
44. smoking crack cocaine			
45. sniffing cocaine			
46. sniffing glue			
47. using heroin			
48. taking uppers or downers			

How much do you think **kids your age** harm themselves physically or in other ways if they do the following?

(Check *one box only* for each action.)

no harm some harm great harm

49. smoke cigarettes			
50. chew tobacco			
51. drink beer, or wine, or liquor			
52. smoke marijuana			
53. use cocaine, crack cocaine, or heroin			
54. drink wine coolers			
55. sniff glue			
56. take uppers or downers			

How many of the **kids your age** do you think have **ever** tried the following?

(Check *one box only* for each action.)

	none	fewer than 5	5 or more
57. smoking cigarettes			
58. chewing tobacco			
59. drinking beer, wine, or liquor			
60. smoking marijuana			
61. using cocaine, crack cocaine, or heroin			
62. drinking wine coolers			
63. sniffing glue			
64. taking uppers or downers			

Are the following statements true or false?

(Check *true*, *false* or *don't know* for each one.)

	true	false	don't know
65. Light beer has less alcohol in it than regular beer has.			
66. Wine coolers do not contain alcohol.			
67. Users of heroin, cocaine, uppers, or downers can become addicted to them.			
68. Someone who smokes or someone who chews tobacco can become addicted to the nicotine in tobacco.			
69. Every package of cigarettes has a danger-to-your-health warning on it.			
70. Every container of liquor, beer, wine, and wine cooler has a health and safety warning on it.			
71. Chemicals in tobacco can cause cancer in other parts of the body as well as in the lungs.			
72. Sniffing glue will cause nothing more than pleasant "high" feelings.			
73. Smoking marijuana regularly has no long-term effects on a user's health.			
74. The use of illegal drugs is a major reason for the high crime rate in the United States.			

Do you agree with, disagree with, or have no opinion about the following statements?

(Check *one box* for each.)

	agree	disagree	no opinion
75. Smoking tobacco can lead a smoker to try illegal drugs that can be smoked, such as marijuana or crack cocaine.			
76. Even though it is illegal, marijuana is used widely in the United States; its use is on the increase. Therefore, the use of marijuana should be made legal.			

agree disagree no opinion

77. Some tobacco and beer advertisements make smoking and drinking look like cool things to do.			
78. Kids your age talk about some tobacco and beer advertisements.			
79. Should schools teach about the dangers of taking illegal drugs, of drinking alcoholic beverages, and of smoking or chewing tobacco to kids your age ? (Circle one.)	YES	NO	

How important is it for schools to teach each of the following to **kids your age**?

(Check *one box only* for each.)

important not important doesn't matter

80. information about illegal drugs and their effects on the body			
81. information about the effects of alcohol on the body			
82. information about the effects of smoking or chewing tobacco on the body			
83. how to say no to drug dealers			
84. how to deal with pressure from kids your age to smoke or to chew tobacco or to drink alcohol or to use illegal drugs			
85. how to deal with disappointment or failure without turning to illegal drugs or alcohol			
86. how decisions kids make today about smoking, chewing tobacco, drinking alcohol, or using drugs, can make a difference in their lives years from now			

How well does your school teach each of the following to **kids your age**?

(Check *one box only* for each.)

very well OK not well does not teach at all

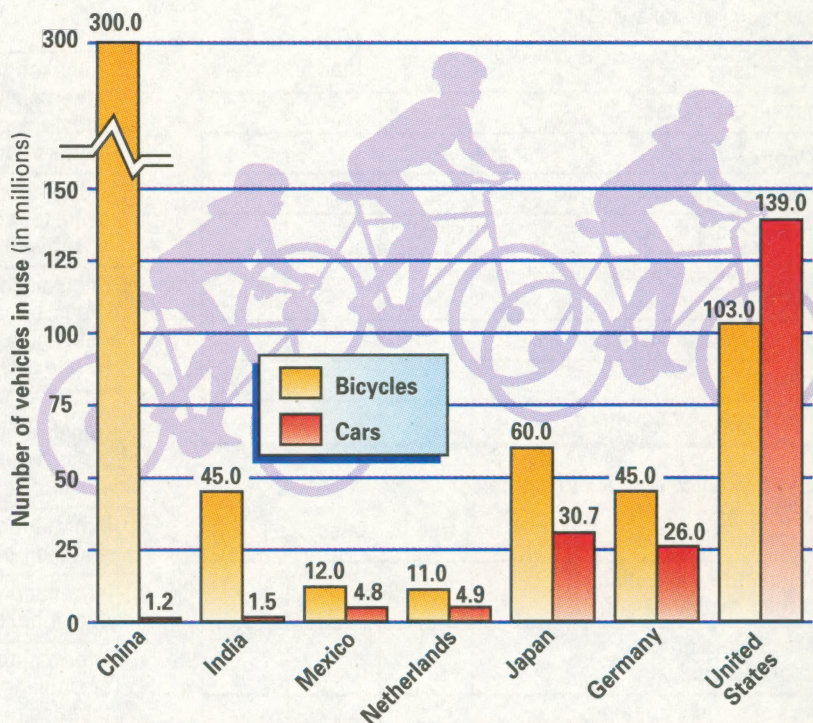
87. information about illegal drugs and their effects on the body				
88. information about the effects of alcohol on the body				
89. information about the effects of smoking or chewing tobacco on the body				
90. how to say no to drug dealers				
91. how to deal with pressure from kids your age to smoke or to chew tobacco or to drink alcohol or to use illegal drugs				
92. how to deal with disappointment or failure without turning to illegal drugs or alcohol				
93. how decisions kids make today about smoking, chewing tobacco, drinking alcohol, or using drugs, can make a difference in their lives years from now				

What's On the Road?

GEOPLUS™ ACTIVITY

Circle the letter of the response that best completes each statement.

- The number of cars in use in India is about (A) 1.5 million, (B) 12 million, (C) 45 million.
- A little more than 30 million cars are in use in (A) Mexico, (B) Japan, (C) Germany.
- The nation with the most bicycles in use is (A) China, (B) India, (C) the United States.
- The nation with the most cars in use is (A) China, (B) Japan, (C) the United States.
- More bicycles are in use in Mexico than in (A) Japan, (B) India, (C) Netherlands.
- Five times as many bicycles are in use in China as in (A) India, (B) Japan, (C) the United States.
- About four times as many bicycles are in use in the United States as are cars in use in (A) Netherlands, (B) Japan, (C) Germany.
- About ten times as many bicycles are in use in China as are (A) cars in the United States, (B) cars in Japan, (C) bicycles in India.
- In Japan, bicycles outnumber cars by a ratio of (A) two to one, (B) three to one, (C) four to one.



Source: Worldwatch Institute, based on most recent figures available

KNOW THE NEWS

Circle the response that best completes each statement.

- Carnivores are animals that (A) eat meat, (B) hunt only large animals, (C) travel in packs.
- Early settlers in the United States killed wolves mostly because they (A) needed food to eat, (B) wanted to protect their livestock, (C) thought the wolves were destroying their crops.
- Biologists say that bringing back wolves to Yellowstone will help control populations of (A) cattle, (B) moose and deer, (C) gophers and other small, destructive animals.
- Russian troops entered Chechnya to (A) reduce the crime rate in Chechnya, (B) rebuild the Chechen army, (C) prevent Chechnya from breaking away.
- The pyramids show signs of damage from erosion due to (A) flooding and air pollution, (B) air pollution and dust storms, (C) dust storms and earthquakes.
- After the United Nations objected to a road's being built close to the pyramids, Egyptian officials decided to (A) go ahead with construction, (B) delay construction, (C) cancel the project entirely.

PICK-A-WORD

Choose the word from this list that best fits the meaning of each sentence. Not all the words are used.

declare
erode

evade
expose

fierce
induce

rule
tranquilize

- The veterinarian decided to _____ the dog before the operation.
- Shonna wanted to _____ her interest in running for class president right away.
- They decided to replace the roof before more shingles started to _____.
- Those teachers _____ their classes with an iron hand.
- He waited to _____ the fraud until he was sure of his facts.



What reasons might people in the United States give for not riding bicycles to work or school?



São Paulo, a city with one of the world's fastest growing populations, is in which South American country?